

Flathead County Road and Bridge Advisory Committee
Advisory Committee Meeting
April 10, 2008 – **7:00 pm**
Solid Waste District Board Room – County Landfill

1. Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Charles Lapp – Chairman, Mike Schlegel – Vice Chairman, Karl Schrade, Dan Siderius, David Hilde

Staff Present: Operations Manager Guy Foy, Recording Secretaries Patti Vernarsky and Karen Rogers, Administrative Assistant Mike Pence.

Public Attendees: Mark Gluth, Tom Gorton, Noel Gorton, Paul Abel, Whitey Boughton, Brian Cole, Michael Richeson-Daily Interlake

2. Introductory Remarks

No introductory remarks at this time.

3. Comments from the Public (15 Minutes Maximum)

Tom Gorton, 578 Creston Rd. Do you have all the price sheets for gravel from the private contractors? Comparing notes on chips. LHC contract 16.00 a yard chips. Don't know where the chips would be put. Why would county spend more than they need to? Ask committee when weight constrictions will be lifted. Frost is out of the ground. DOT had about 8 trucks pulled over. Own dump truck and know 400 lbs. but when he saw 350. Why the discrepancies between paved roads on the different weights? Committee needs to look at some of the roads. On the 29th last month snow plowing private contractors, went to Bigfork, 4 inches of snow that had melted and it was a crust and wasn't being plowed on the weekends. Last weekend it snowed and no plows or sand trucks. County should focus on snow plow and sand and the asphalt plant and crusher should be eliminated. Not out plowing or sanding when there are sheets of ice maybe a private company should take it over.

Paul Abel 301 Farm Rd. Committee has done an exceptional job of investigating and digging into the issues presented, and thank you. Spring is upon us, and the dust in the air is starting to build. June – September is the heavy dust season. Bigfork Sewer District is starting to haul on Farm Road again. The truck pulverizes the road surface, and creates more dust for personal vehicle traffic. The District is expanding their services and they aren't doing anything to abate the dust on Farm Road. Worried that the residences will have another summer of dust pollution like in the past. Would like the committee to have some sort of recommendation this spring that would give some sort of dust relief even if it was just temporary for this summer anyway. The dust damages agricultural product,

can's sell hay that is grown within 400 yards of the road because customers are coming back and saying its making their animals cough.

Noel Gorton 578 Creston Rd – Does the committee any information on the \$10,000 allocated this year for dust abatement and where it's going, for the fine of violating the Montana Clean Air Act. When is the deputy going to start, and what about signs?

Brian Cole 1605 KM Ranch Road – Issue is dust abatement, and any advice for KM Ranch Rd. The road has not been improved in years, no gravel, and now it's been graded down to the road bed. Even at 20 mph it's a real risk because the cloud of dust is so thick. The county has been contacted before with limited response and told gravel is not available. Wondering if the committee is making recommendations in the area of gravel roads.

4. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes – **Action Required**

David Hilde motions to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2008 meeting. Karl Schrade seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed, minutes approved.

5. Action Agenda – **No Items Requiring Action**

6. Director's Report

a. Discussion of Committee's Draft Report to the Commissioners

Guy Foy – Director's Report tonight is going over what the committee wants to make for recommendations to the commissioners and compile a list of ideas and if time allows tonight go in more discussion.

Karl Schrade – See hand out attached.

Mike Schelgel

- Quality Control Program
- Put in place Road Technicians, Personnel to inventory and task projects and over see quality
- Adopt Army Corps Road Maintenance Program in the booklet that was handed out.
- Operating Procedures/Performance Evaluations
- Internal auditing system, with random road evaluations
- Operator/foreman survey roads randomly and work with them for the quality control
- Seasonal – retired Forest Service Engineers to do the yearly evaluations of road sections.
- Double chip seal over gravel (except hills)

- Blade/Water Magnesium Chloride
 - Valley floor ½ gallon 20' wide \$3,600.00 per mile. Average of 5 miles a day
 - 3" of good gravel on road to work is key
 - Hills and corners have a tendency to washboard.
 - Humidity is also a key factor in helping the Magnesium Chloride hold through the summer season.
- Committee and staff evaluate some gravel roads and paved roads.

Dave Hilde

- Cost system allocates for each category – grading, paving, snowplowing
- Reevaluate how the gravel maintenance monies are being spent, to become more cost effective in fixing the gravel roads, and possibly paving them.
- Gravel Roads need a new gravel road spec
- Change the specs in the Crushing Bids to meet the standards in the Army Corps Road Maintenance Book
- No paving/overlay at all until Peccia's study decides
- Use of Calcium Chloride or Magnesium Chloride as a stabilizer on gravel roads.
- Evaluation of gravel roads
- Upgrading gravel roads - Gravel roads that are under heavy truck traffic unless it has a 2 foot base should remain a gravel road.
- Foreman – Training, more supervisor's, evaluate each section of road every spring and say this is what needs to be done with each road.
- Not enough knowledge in grader operators to maintain roads
- Private contractor don't pay
- Suspend all paving until committee goals are in sight. Take spring paving money and use to for dust suppressant and start the rehabilitation of the gravel roads.
- Privatize portions of road maintenance – Go out to bid

Dan Siderius

- Change quality control
- Material using the right material for each job
- Use current funding
- Training

Charles Lapp

- Long Term Maintenance Program
- Work within the budget we have
- Road Inventory
- Immediate short term we need to do something with the gravel roads.

- Wants a report about current road evaluation from the Road Department Foreman and Operators.
- Dust Control

Mike Pence – Reference to the Transportation Study, Page 16 “Develop, guidance on paved vs. unpaved road ways, recommendations will be developed such that Road Advisory Committee, staff, and elected officials can decided based on information presented what types of criteria should be included as relevant for the Transportation Study.” The study is looking for input and involvement from the committee.

Key Point Overview:

- Quality control on maintenance program for operators based on manual and standards
- Inventory of roads by Foreman
- Road Trip
- Materials being used
- No Paving or Overlay in the short term and focus on Gravel Roads
- Dust Control
- Phase out Crusher & Asphalt Plant
- Inventory pits and materials
- Long term planning
- Training – Utilizing Stephen Monlux
- Additional Funding Sources – should we explore into this area, or should the committee encourage others to do it. Possibly invite legislators to a meeting so that the committee can talk with them and voice concerns.

Dust Deputy – 6 months full time position starting May 1 and end exactly 6 months later. This position is totally dedicated to basically dust control issues related to speed. We are in the process of setting up a review process for how complaints are handled. The calls will not be transferred directly to the officer, but a plan will be made for the following weeks patrol area. There will be monthly reports provided by the deputy.

Noel Gorton – Last summer, County Road Department was paving in front of Creston School. County Trucks were hauling on Creston Rd, and Mennonite Church Rd. Both gravel roads, none of the trucks did the 20 mph advised speed limit that is posted on both roads.

Signage – We have 1/3 of the signs up, they are all ordered, here, and in the process of being placed.

\$10,000 to be used for Dust Abatement – Currently we are looking at areas that were treated last fall, and using the stabilization product to control dust, and stabilize the roads. We currently do not have any roads earmarked specifically for

treatment. We are looking at quite a few different areas, talking to operators. We are looking at problem areas of using the stabilization material to not only control the dust, but stabilize the roads. \$900.00 per mile for a single application.

Paul Abel – Clarification of what is being said. The understanding is that the county is diverting part of the \$10,000 dust abatement money to stabilization work.

Guy - The product being used is a dust suppressant and road stabilizer used for both applications.

Next meeting is April 24, 2008 at 7:00 pm

Special Meeting – Road Trip April 16, 2008 7:30 am. Meet at County Shop.

7. Comments from Committee Members

Karl Schrade – County is being held hostage because of health reasons and not allowing the county to grade the road. County will be going to visit them, but our stand is that we are sorry there are health problems, and we are going to do our best to use Mother Nature and the water that is coming. We were unable to complete fall maintenance last year. The road can't last as it is and is in need of rebuild. The road has to be graded.

Mark Guluth – Stopped grader last summer, what those people are experiencing with the roughness of the road, people are forced to go slower. Once the road is graded the residents know they are going to go through hell, pure hell, and if you want to know what they go through just go and stay the day at their residence.

8. Adjournment

Mike Schelgel made the motion to adjourn, Dave Hilde seconded, all in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm